Department for the Development of the Spiritual Resources

THE CALL FOR IT

WHAT IT IS

WHAT IT AIMS TO DO

Joint Centenary Committee
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH
111 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK

THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CENTENARY

THE far-reaching spiritual aims of the Missionary Centenary have been recognized and emphasized from the beginning of the movement.

Nothing but the power of God possessing a willing and obedient Church can bring success. When the Church recognizes the inadequacy of all human means, casts itself utterly upon God in prayer, and rises from its knees to work and give as never before, then and not until then, victory will come.

DECLARATION OF THE WORLD PROGRAM COMMITTEE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE World Program Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church at its meeting at Niagara Falls, September 17-19, 1917, put itself on record as follows:—

"Resolved, That the final triumph of this imperial program depends upon a new birth within the Church of New Testament teaching, as to the stewardship of life, and prayer, and possessions. The first need of the hour is not money, but the consecration that lays money on the altar.

"Resolved, That we approve the plans proposed for the development of the missionary prayer life of the Church, and we urge that an effort be made to enroll by name tens of thousands of our Methodist pastors and people to meet daily at the Throne of Grace in intercessory prayer for the Centenary and its objects, as represented in our World Program."

THE WORLD PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH

THE World Program Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, meeting at Memphis, Tennessee, March 19-21, 1918, passed strong resolutions calling the Church to prayer. The recommendations of the Committee were passed on to the General Conference, which incorporated in the reports adopted at the session in Atlanta, May, 1918, the following:—

"The world crisis, and our tremendous resources of men and money, create an unprecedented responsibility; to depend upon mere human resources would, in this spiritual enterprise, be presumption. Spiritual resources infinitely outweigh the material. Christ himself has indicated the order of procedure, when he commanded his disciples to pray for laborers. Through prayer we come into harmony with God's will, and have his cooperation in finding laborers; and, in bringing ourselves under the enlightening and strengthening guidance of His Holy Spirit, realizing our past shortcomings, we would first seek pardon for failure and lack of faith, and then daily and hourly call upon God for help in this crisis of Christianity.

"We desire to enlist the prayer of all our people for greater zeal and consecration, for a large increase in the number of missionaries, for larger liberality in offerings, and for the dedication of the so-called secular activities of our people to spiritual ends. We commend the plans already in use by the commission's Department of Spiritual Resources and recommend the creation and circulation of adequate literature setting forth the place of prayer in Christ's plan for saving the world."

The Committee of One Hundred on the World Program were of the opinion that this gigantic

task could be accomplished by much prayer and much preaching on stewardship. They have, therefore, made intercession the first item of their program; stewardship the second item; and the raising of this great Centenary fund the third item. They believe that such a program will cause the fires of a holy Christian enthusiasm to break forth into a bright flame in our own land, and will be the cure for the sordid materialism naturally following a great war unless the Church steps out with renewed consecration to God.

APPEAL OF THE BISHOPS

THE Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church at a recent meeting prepared and authorized a statement entitled, "The Centenary and the War," from which the following paragraphs are taken:—

"First, we call the entire Church to intercessory prayer for the Centennial of Home and Foreign Missions, and to the enrolment of as large a number as possible of prayer helpers in The Fellowship of Intercession.

"Let the district superintendents, and the pastors, and the official boards summon the church members to repentance and prayer, such as the weakness of the Church and the crisis upon the world demand.

"Surely in a universe of moral and spiritual laws as unswerving as physical laws, in response to proper efforts in behalf of such great fields, we may confidently expect a deepening of the spiritual life, an enlargement of the spiritual power of the Church, and such an ingathering of souls as will cause the angels to sing for joy."

These quotations indicate the burden which is upon the leaders of the Church that the Centenary campaign shall result in a deepened spiritual life, and in lifting the whole Church into new standards of devotion and service.

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

To carry out the program suggested by the leaders of the Church, the Department for the Cultivation of the Spiritual Resources was organized, consisting of a committee of fifty with W. E. Doughty as executive chairman, and Bruce B. Corbin as secretary for the Methodist Episcopal Church, and W. B. Beauchamp as secretary for the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

THREE FOLD WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT

1 *Arousing the Church*

A widespread appeal is being carried to the Church by many means such as through the church papers, special literature prepared for the purpose, through extensive correspondence, and by special emphasis on the spiritual message and meaning of the Centenary at the annual conferences and all Centenary meetings.

2 *Enlisting Intercessors*

The department has organized The Fellowship of Intercession and is enrolling tens of thousands of members. These memberships come from all over the world. The enrolment blanks are being filed in the Centenary office.

Every church in Methodism is urged to set aside at least one Sunday as Intercession Sunday, when the subject is presented and enrolments taken. Special literature has been issued to assist the pastors in preparing for the work of this special Sunday. Pamphlets for widespread distribution among the people have been prepared, and many thousands of copies are being circulated.

All who make addresses on the Centenary are expected to emphasize the place and power of prayer in the campaign, and to urge a multitude of people to enroll in The Fellowship of Intercession.

Many enrolments are being secured in personal interviews. This is one of the most effective methods.

3 *Training Prayer Helpers*

On the receipt of enrolments in the Centenary office, a folder acknowledging the receipt of the enrolment, a prayer cycle entitled "First of All" and other prayer helps are sent to each signer of The Fellowship of Intercession enrolment blank.

It is the purpose of this department to communicate from time to time with all members of The Fellowship of Intercession, to send them special requests for prayer, to circulate literature among them, and to seek to inspire them to enlist others in prayer.

Extensive plans are being made to utilize this army of prayer helpers in the future world-wide activities of the Church, and, through them, to release mighty spiritual energies for the refreshment and invigoration of the life of the world.

Address all inquiries and orders for literature to
The Department of Spiritual Resources
Joint Centenary Committee
111 Fifth Avenue
New York